

REMARKS

This paper is in response to the Office Action of July 18, 2006. The due date for response extends to September 18, 2006. The current status of the claims is summarized below.

Claims 1, 8, and 15 are currently amended.

Claims 5, 7, 12, 14 and 19 are cancelled.

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-11, 13, 15-18 and 20 are pending after entry of this amendment.

Amendments were made to independent claims 1, 8 and 15 to correct the antecedent basis and to further clarify the invention. The support to the amendments are present in the specification and, hence, no new matter has been introduced.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL

The Applicants submit that the amendments presented by way of this paper should be entered. The amendments were the result of further clarifying the independent claim features. As the clarifications were already presented in the examined application, the amendments do not raise new issues. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that these amendments should be entered.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112

Claims 1, 8 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended to address the discrepancy. Accordingly, the Applicants request the Office to remove the 112 rejection on independent claims 1, 8 and 15.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102

Claims 1-4, 6, 8-11, 13, 15-18 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kamitani et al., (US PG publication No. 2003/0065889) (hereinafter Kamitani). This rejection is respectfully traversed and Applicants request reconsideration in light of proposed clarifying claim amendments.

Independent claims 1, 8 and 15 have been amended further to include initiating a read-ahead operation for a second value of data pages upon serving a data page to the application operating on the client node. The read-ahead operation is initiated after a data page is served to the application requesting the data page so that the number of available data pages at the client node meets a defined condition. This is to make sure that the application operating on the client node does not have to wait for data pages thereby improving the application's read operation performance. (See page 12, lines 17-23, page 13, lines 1-9).

Kamitani discloses a method for reading data from external memory for storing in cache memory wherein the data from an external memory is read at prescribed timing and loaded onto cache memory. Precisely, if the address in a block of data resident on the cache memory being read or written to by an application indicates a last word of a certain page in a block, an external memory control unit starts an uploading operation to upload data from a prescribed number of pages from external memory onto cache memory. (See paragraphs 0118, 0119, 0121, 0122...). Although Kamitani discloses a type of reading, the operation of Kamitani differs from the claimed invention. Kamitani teaches a process wherein a read request is made upon reading of the *last word* on a page of a block. In contrast, the claimed invention initiates a read-ahead request after each page is presented to the application running on the client node (See page 12, lines 17-20, page 13, lines 5-9).

Kamitani does not suggest or teach verifying the number of available data pages upon serving a data page to the application. Kamitani uses a pointer "reading" to indicate a word on the address block on a page. The pointer reading moves sequentially in a direction along which the address block increases and when it reaches a last word on the page represented by largest address in block of the rightmost page, the external memory unit of Kamitani starts the uploading operation. As a result, Kamitani does not need to maintain a total number of available data pages or to verify the number of available data pages to the client node against a defined (first) value. (*See paragraphs [0120], [0121] and Figures 13A-13C*).


In contrast, the claimed invention discloses a method wherein a page of data is presented to an application, running on the client-node, requesting the data page. Upon presenting the data page to the application, the number of available data pages is decremented accordingly. Next a check is made to ensure sufficient amount of data pages are available to the client node. This is done by determining the number of available data pages to the client node and verifying the number against a defined condition. If the number of available data pages does not meet the defined condition, a read-ahead request is sent to the network based file system to upload a second value of data pages. Thus, the claimed invention maintains a total number of available data pages to the client node. The process of presenting, verifying and reading-ahead is continued till there are no more pages available or till the application completes. As can be seen, the teachings of the claimed invention vary from the teachings of Kamitani. In view of the argument presented, the Applicants request rejection of independent claims 1, 8 and 15 be withdrawn.

Claims 2-4, 6, 9-11, 13, 16-18 and 20 depend on the amended independent claims 1, 8 and 15 respectively. Based on the arguments presented above for independent claims 1, 8 and

15, Applicants submit that claims 2-4, 6, 9-11, 13, 16-18 and 20 are patentable over Kamitani for at least the same reasons and request the withdrawal of their rejection.

For at least these reasons, the Examiner is kindly requested to withdraw this Section 102(e) rejection. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present amendment, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (408) 749-6905. If any other fees are due in connection with filing this amendment, the Commissioner is also authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0805 (Order No SUNMP464). A duplicate copy of the transmittal is enclosed for this purpose.

Respectfully submitted,
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